GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2145
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
VISIT OF D.G. WTO
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of World Trade Organisation visited India during January, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between the Government and the visiting Director General regarding anti-dumping measures, import curbs imposed by the developed countries and social clause in the World Trade Accord; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) Mr. Mike Moore, Director General, WTO, visited New Delhi during January, 2000 to attend the `Partnership Summit-2000` organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He took the opportunity to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and had discussions with the Commerce & Industry Minister with a view to understand India`s point of view on the possibility of creating a consensus between WTO Members for the resumption of the work of the 3rd Ministerial Conference of WTO, which had been suspended on 3rd December 2000 due to wide divergence of views among the WTO Membership. It was conveyed to the DG, WTO that there was no point in rushing into another Ministerial Meeting of WTO unless there is a broad consensus among the Members. Such a consensus, it was highlighted, could prima facie be achieved only if non-trade related issues like social clauses are removed from the WTO agenda and the confidence of the developing country members in the WTO is restored by the developed countries by committing themselves to the expeditious redressal of the implementation concerns of developing countries, which include the frequent misuse of the Anti-Dumping Agreement, Sanitary and Phytosanitory Agreement and Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement by the developed countries for denying market access to the developing countries.